

## About the Campaign and Political Finance Database

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### **What information is contained in the database?**

Information from candidates, committees and parties who file campaign finance disclosure reports with the Secretary of State or a [county clerk and recorder](#) is listed in the database.

The Secretary of State provides electronic data from 2000 for candidate and committees who file with the Secretary of State. Additionally, the Secretary of State's website contains images of manually filed disclosure reports dating back to 1992. County information is only available from 2006 forward.

Campaign finance disclosure reports for municipal candidates, committees, and parties are not included, but can be acquired by contacting the appropriate [municipal clerk](#).

The database contains records of contributions, expenditures, loans, notices of delinquent filings, requests for waiver of imposed fines, correspondence, and other important information.

In addition to the standard database, the Secretary of State offers [bulk data](#) for state and county candidates and committees which allows interested persons to view contributions and expenditures in a Microsoft Excel format. Bulk data is not available for municipal candidates and committees.

### **Quality of data contained**

The information presented in the campaign finance database is, to the best of the ability of the Secretary of State and County Clerk and Recorders, an accurate representation of the disclosure reports filed with the applicable office. It is suggested that the information found from reports data-entered by the Secretary of State or County Clerks be cross-checked with the original document or scanned image of the original document.

Some of the information in the campaign finance database was submitted in electronic form by the candidate, committee or party, and some of the information was data-entered from paper reports filed with the appropriate office. Sometimes items which are not consistent with filing requirements, such as missing names and addresses or contributions

that exceed the allowable limits, are displayed when data is viewed online. Incorrect entries in the database typically reflect incorrect or incomplete entries on manually filed reports submitted to the Secretary of State or County Clerk.

### **Whose data are included?**

The campaign finance database contains disclosure reports filed by:

- State political parties
- Committees supporting or opposing state ballot issues, questions or measures
- Committees supporting or opposing county ballot issues, questions or measures (excluding municipal issues)
- Political Organizations (527s) seeking to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of candidates
- Candidates and committees supporting or opposing state candidates including
  - Governor/ Lt. Governor
  - Secretary of State
  - State Senate
  - Regent of the University of Colorado
  - Attorney General
  - State Treasurer
  - State Representative
  - RTD Director
- Candidates and committees supporting or opposing local candidates including
  - County Commissioner
  - County Clerk & Recorder
  - County Treasurer
  - County Surveyor
  - Special District Directors
  - County Assessor
  - County Coroner
  - County Sheriff
  - School Board Directors
  - County Political Parties

The campaign finance database also contains Electioneering Communication reports filed by persons or organizations who distribute advertisements or material referring to a candidate within 30 days of a primary election or 60 days of a general election.

The campaign finance database **does not** contain reports from candidates for federal office such as President, United States Senator, or United States Congressman. These reports are filed with the [Federal Election Commission](#).

Beginning July 1, 2007, political organizations, commonly referred to as 527 organizations, who receive contributions or undertake spending for Colorado political activities are required to file campaign finance disclosure reports. These reports will be available in the campaign finance database after July 1, 2007. For political organization disclosure reports filed prior to this date, please visit the [Internal Revenue Service](#) website.

The campaign finance database **does not** contain reports for municipal candidates, parties, or committees. Please contact the applicable [municipal clerk](#) for these reports.

### **When are records made available to the public?**

Our data is as current as possible. Campaign finance disclosure reports filed electronically are posted to the database as soon as they are received from candidates, parties, or committees. For reports filed on paper with the Secretary of State, this process may take up to two weeks. Please contact the applicable county clerk and recorder for approximate data entry times for manually filed reports.

In addition to information that is data-entered, the Secretary of State provides scanned images of reports filed on paper with this office. These images are generally available online the next business day after receipt.

### **Are there reporting exceptions?**

The laws governing campaign and political finance, including disclosure requirements, do not apply to home rule counties or municipalities that have adopted charters, ordinances, or resolutions that address campaign finance issues. Please contact the appropriate county to obtain information about the availability of campaign finance disclosure reports. The following counties are currently subject to a home rule charter.

- City and County of Broomfield
- City and County of Denver
- Pitkin County
- Weld County